

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. _____

To amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 by establishing a program to support the modernization, renovation, or repair of career and technical education facilities, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. SCHATZ (for himself and Mr. BROWN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 by establishing a program to support the modernization, renovation, or repair of career and technical education facilities, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Inspiring New STEM
5 Professionals by Investing in Renovation of Education
6 Spaces Act” or the “INSPIRES Act”.

7 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

8 Congress finds the following:

1 (1) Over the past 10 years, the growth in jobs
2 requiring science, technology, engineering, and
3 mathematics (referred to in this section as
4 “STEM”) skills was three times faster than the
5 growth in non-STEM jobs.

6 (2) STEM skills and knowledge are now re-
7 quired in a wide range of occupations, including
8 many that are not traditionally considered to be
9 science or engineering related.

10 (3) Over 50 percent of jobs that require STEM
11 skills do not require a baccalaureate degree, and de-
12 mand for these middle-skill STEM workers is dis-
13 tributed nationwide.

14 (4) When including sub-baccalaureate workers
15 (those with 2-year degrees or occupational licenses
16 or certifications), there may be as many as
17 26,000,000 jobs in the United States that require
18 STEM competency in at least 1 field.

19 (5) In recent years, the unemployment rate for
20 STEM workers has been approximately half of the
21 unemployment rate of non-STEM workers, and the
22 average annual wage for STEM workers has been
23 substantially higher than that of non-STEM work-
24 ers.

1 Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.
2 1058(f)); or

3 “(B) an institution of higher education (as
4 defined in section 101 of such Act (20 U.S.C.
5 1001)) that awards a significant number of de-
6 grees and certificates, as determined by the
7 Secretary, that are not—

8 “(i) baccalaureate degrees (or an
9 equivalent); or

10 “(ii) master’s, professional, or other
11 advanced degrees.

12 “(3) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ‘eligible en-
13 tity’ means a local educational agency, community
14 college, or other entity determined appropriate by
15 the Secretary.

16 “(4) QUALIFIED PROJECT.—The term ‘qualified
17 project’—

18 “(A) means the modernization, renovation,
19 or repair of a facility that will be used to im-
20 prove the quality and availability of science,
21 technology, engineering, mathematics, or career
22 and technical education instruction to public el-
23 elementary school or secondary school, or com-
24 munity college, students, and that may in-
25 clude—

1 “(i) improving the energy efficiency of
2 the facility;

3 “(ii) improving the cost-effectiveness
4 of the facility in delivering quality edu-
5 cation;

6 “(iii) improving student, faculty, and
7 staff health and safety at the facility;

8 “(iv) improving, installing, or upgrad-
9 ing educational technology infrastructure;

10 “(v) retrofitting an existing building
11 for career and technical education pur-
12 poses; and

13 “(vi) a one-time repair of serviceable
14 equipment at the facility, or replacement of
15 equipment at the facility that is at the end
16 of its serviceable lifespan, that will be used
17 to further educational outcomes; and

18 “(B) does not include new construction or
19 the payment of routine maintenance costs.

20 **“SEC. 5622. CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION FACILI-**
21 **TIES IMPROVEMENT.**

22 “(a) PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.—From amounts ap-
23 propriated under section 5401(b), the Secretary shall
24 carry out a program to improve career and technical edu-
25 cation facilities by—

1 “(1) awarding grants to eligible entities to en-
2 able the eligible entities to carry out qualified
3 projects;

4 “(2) guaranteeing loans made to eligible entities
5 for qualified projects; or

6 “(3) making payments of interest on bonds,
7 loans, or other financial instruments (other than a
8 refinancing) that are issued to eligible entities for
9 qualified projects.

10 “(b) APPLICATION.—An eligible entity that desires to
11 receive a grant, loan guarantee, or payment of interest
12 under this subpart shall submit an application to the Sec-
13 retary at such a time, in such a manner, and containing
14 such information as the Secretary may require. The appli-
15 cation shall include—

16 “(1) a detailed description of the qualified
17 project;

18 “(2) in the case of a qualified project described
19 in section 5621(4)(A)(vi), a description of the edu-
20 cational outcomes to be furthered by the one-time
21 repair of serviceable equipment or replacement of
22 equipment;

23 “(3) an indication as to whether the eligible en-
24 tity prefers to receive a grant, loan guarantee, or
25 payment of interest;

1 “(4) a description of the need for the qualified
2 project;

3 “(5) a description of how the eligible entity will
4 ensure that the qualified project will be adequately
5 maintained;

6 “(6) an identification of any public elementary
7 school or secondary school or community college that
8 will benefit from the qualified project;

9 “(7) a description of how the qualified project
10 will improve instruction and educational outcomes at
11 the facility, including any opportunities to integrate
12 project activities within the curriculum of such
13 school or community college;

14 “(8) a description of how the facility supported
15 by the qualified project will be used for providing
16 educational services in science, technology, engineer-
17 ing, mathematics, or career and technical education;

18 “(9) a description of how the eligible entity will
19 ensure that the modernization, renovation, or repair
20 supported by the qualified project meets Leadership
21 in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED)
22 building rating standards, Energy Star standards,
23 Collaborative for High Performance Schools (CHPS)
24 criteria, Green Building Initiative environmental de-
25 sign and rating standards (Green Globes), the Liv-

1 ing Building Challenge certification standards, or
2 equivalent standards adopted by entities with juris-
3 diction over or related to the eligible entity;

4 “(10) a description of the fiscal capacity of the
5 eligible entity;

6 “(11) the percentage of students enrolled in the
7 public elementary school or secondary school or com-
8 munity college to be served by the qualified project
9 who are from low-income families;

10 “(12) in the case of a qualified project at a fa-
11 cility that is used by students in a secondary school,
12 the secondary school graduation rates; and

13 “(13) such additional information and assur-
14 ances as the Secretary may require.

15 “(c) PRIORITY.—In making awards under this sub-
16 part, the Secretary shall use not less than a total of 25
17 percent of the funds appropriated under section 5401(b)
18 to eligible entities for qualified projects to benefit—

19 “(1) public elementary schools or secondary
20 schools served by high-need local educational agen-
21 cies, as described in section 2102(3)(A); or

22 “(2) community colleges serving a substantial
23 number of rural students, as determined by the Sec-
24 retary.

1 “(d) SUPPLEMENT NOT SUPPLANT.—Funds made
2 available under this subpart shall be used to supplement,
3 and not supplant, other Federal and State funds available
4 to carry out the activities supported under this subpart.

5 “(e) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE
6 COSTS.—The Secretary may reserve not more than 3 per-
7 cent of funds appropriated under section 5401(b) for the
8 administrative costs of this subpart and to provide tech-
9 nical assistance to community colleges and local edu-
10 cational agencies concerning best practices in school facil-
11 ity renovation, repair, and modernization.

12 “(f) REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—Not later than 1
13 year after funds are appropriated to carry out this sub-
14 part, and every 2 years thereafter, the Secretary shall pre-
15 pare and submit to the appropriate committees of Con-
16 gress a report on the effect of the qualified projects sup-
17 ported under this subpart on improving academic achieve-
18 ment.”.

19 (b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section
20 5401 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of
21 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7241) is amended—

22 (1) by striking the matter preceding paragraph
23 (1) and inserting the following:

1 “(a) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be ap-
2 propriated to carry out this part (except for subpart 22)
3 the following amounts:”; and

4 (2) by adding at the end the following:

5 “(b) AUTHORIZATION FOR SUBPART 22.—There are
6 authorized to be appropriated to carry out subpart 22
7 \$75,000,000 for fiscal year 2016 and each succeeding fis-
8 cal year.”.

9 (c) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—The table of con-
10 tents in section 2 of the Elementary and Secondary Edu-
11 cation Act of 1965 is amended by inserting after the item
12 relating to section 5618 the following:

“SUBPART 22—CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION FACILITIES

“Sec. 5621. Definitions.

“Sec. 5622. Career and technical facilities improvement.”.